

**Amendments to the Specification**

*Please replace the first paragraph on page 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:*

--This is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. ~~09/418,990~~  
09/718,990 filed November 20, 2000, which ~~will now issued~~ issue as U.S. Patent No. 6,602,661  
on August 5, 2003, which is a continuation-in-part of International Application No.  
PCT/US00/20354, filed July 26, 2000, which was published in English under PCT Article 21(2),  
which in turn claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/145,613, filed July 26,  
1999. All three applications are incorporated herein in their entirety.--

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, lines 6-15, with the following  
rewritten paragraph:*

--To meet this need a number of "multiplex" assays have been introduced. Among the  
most common type of assays for surveying the expression of large numbers of genes in parallel  
are DNA microarrays (a/k/a "biochips"). Most microarrays consist of a glass slide or other solid  
surface upon which thousands of cDNA probes are anchored. With these devices DNA probes  
are arrayed in a grid-like format. Messenger RNAs are isolated from the samples of interest and  
allowed to hybridize to the probes anchored to the biochip revealing the profile of the genes  
expressed. Various scanners and software programs are used to profile the patterns of genes that  
are "turned on." Representative of this biochip approach is the ~~GeneChip®~~ GENECHIP® (gene  
expression analysis array) system from Affymetrix, Inc. (Santa Clara, California).--